

Morning Highlights

June 25, 2008
Morning Highlights 2008-35

Contact:
Public Affairs, 356-5511

ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

Two new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Tuesday. One was caused by tracer rounds on a military installation and is now out. The other was reported by a Warbelows flight out of Ft. Yukon and was showing a lot of activity in black spruce. Four smokejumpers responded and the fire was contained last night and the smokejumpers will be released today.



The 800-acre Venetie Village Fire (pictured above) was originally reported as a one-acre fire that escaped from the Venetie dump and locals suppressed with a dozer late on the night of June 22. On June 24, a Warbelows flight reported the fire was burning on the north side of the runway and was two acres with strong winds pushing it. It quickly grew to seven acres and was burning in black spruce. It jumped the road and was running towards Venetie Lake. Two loads of smokejumpers, two fire retardant tankers, two CL-215 water-dropping tankers, and aerial supervision responded. The North Star and Ft. Yukon fire crews are also staffing the fire and the Denali and Pioneer Peek crews are going to the fire today. Currently, it is staffed w/ 48 people.

EFF CREWS TO LOWER-48

Five Emergency Firefighter (EFF) Crews will mobilize today and be sent to California tomorrow. The crews that are going out are: Tanacross, St. Michael, Ambler, Hooper Bay #1 and Nondalton #1.

Approximately 16,000 people and 1,000 fire engines are in California supporting the wildland fire suppression efforts. In the most recent lightning event the state picked up 1,000 new fires; more lightning is predicted in northern California today.

NATIONAL SITUATION

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, initial activity was heavy yesterday as 406 new wildland fires started. Twelve new large fires were reported in Arizona, California, Florida, and New Mexico. Currently, 52 large fires have burned more than 340,000 acres throughout the United States.

The U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE have opened a "Joint Information Center" (JIC) in northern California to provide fire information and a big picture summary of the current fire situation. The JIC will be available 24 hours a day until conditions change. Local fire public information centers are still available where citizens can get specific fire information details and updates.

BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

<i>Fairbanks Area:</i>	907-451-2626
<i>Delta Area:</i>	907-895-2106
<i>Tok Area:</i>	907-883-5134
<i>Mat-Su District:</i>	907-761-6312
<i>Kenai-Kodiak Area:</i>	907-260-4269
<i>Valdez/ Copper River Area:</i>	907-822-5536
<i>Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):</i>	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

*In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>

- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service.

###